

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of H.R. 813, as amended, is to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in several important projects to improve water supplies in Southern California. In consultation with the minority, the legislation has been amended to eliminate the authorization and funding for a technology center. Similar legislation passed the House in the 109th Congress.

So, Mr. Speaker, we support this non-controversial bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 813.

H.R. 813 does enjoy bipartisan support from the Orange County, California delegation. This legislation seeks to reduce Southern California's dependence on imported water by helping localities build needed desalinization infrastructure in the region.

Congressman GARY MILLER's bill could not be considered at a better time since millions of water consumers in Southern California may soon feel the brunt of water rationing due to a lawsuit and subsequent judicial decision reducing water deliveries to the region.

A number of our colleagues, on a bipartisan basis, sent a letter over a month ago requesting that the Democratic majority hold a hearing on the impacts of this decision. This Congress needs to recognize that people are a part of the water equation as well in this endangered species debate. We hope the majority will work with us on this important hearing and ways to avoid future water shut-offs.

This legislation may be too late to mitigate harmful lawsuits and judicial decisions, but it will help in the long term; and that is why we support the bill.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 813, the Santa Ana River Water Supply Enhancement Act of 2007, which will significantly increase Southern California's water supply.

The Santa Ana River Water Supply Enhancement Act of 2007 authorizes federal funding for a number of important local water projects. When complete, these projects will increase Southern California's water supply by over 37 billion gallons per year.

Because of dwindling supplies, increasing demands, and looming drought, Southern California communities continue to seek non-traditional methods to produce dependable water sources. I am pleased that the House has rec-

ognized the importance of addressing the chronic water shortages in Southern California by providing the funding resources necessary to help local water agencies improve water reliability and diversity.

H.R. 813, the Santa Ana River Water Supply Enhancement Act of 2007, will improve Southern California's water supply by developing wetlands in the Prado Basin, and expanding groundwater desalination in the Chino Basin, and constructing regional brine lines.

Specifically, H.R. 813 authorizes the federal government to spend \$20 million to develop large-scale wetlands along the Santa Ana River in the Prado Basin, to purify the River before it replenishes Orange County's groundwater supplies. This expanded natural treatment system will provide an additional 24.5 billion gallons of water per year.

In addition, H.R. 813 authorizes \$50 million in federal funding to expand groundwater desalination in the Chino Basin from the current 2.9 billion gallons per year to 13 billion gallons per year. This will provide a new fresh drinking water supply for Jurupa Community Services District, Santa Ana Mutual Water Company in Riverside County, and the cities of Norco, Chino, Chino Hills, and Ontario in San Bernardino County.

Also, the bill authorizes \$40 million in federal funding to provide methods to safely and efficiently discard excess brine from nearby desalination plants by constructing a line that transports residual brine to the Pacific Ocean. This will ensure salt water does not contaminate fresh groundwater supplies.

If we want to sustain America's economic growth and provide for a rapidly increasing population, we must ensure our communities have efficient and reliable access to water resources. By encouraging the use of innovative technologies through water recycling and desalination, this bill ensures that more drinking water will be available across Southern California.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important bill. As it moves forward through the legislative process, I will continue to urge for its expeditious enactment.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 813, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1545

SAN DIEGO WATER STORAGE AND EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1803) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study to design and construct a four reservoir intertie system for the pur-

poses of improving the water storage opportunities, water supply reliability, and water yield of San Vicente, El Capitan, Murray, and Loveland Reservoirs in San Diego County, California in consultation and cooperation with the City of San Diego and the Sweetwater Authority, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1803

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "San Diego Water Storage and Efficiency Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. FEASIBILITY STUDY, PROJECT DEVELOPMENT, COST SHARE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as "Secretary"), in consultation and cooperation with the City of San Diego and the Sweetwater Authority, is authorized to undertake a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a four reservoir intertie system to improve water storage opportunities, water supply reliability, and water yield of the existing non-Federal water storage system. The feasibility study shall document the Secretary's engineering, environmental, and economic investigation of the proposed reservoir and intertie project taking into consideration the range of potential solutions and the circumstances and needs of the area to be served by the proposed reservoir and intertie project, the potential benefits to the people of that service area, and improved operations of the proposed reservoir and intertie system. The Secretary shall indicate in the feasibility report required under subsection (d) whether the proposed reservoir and intertie project is recommended for construction.

(b) FEDERAL COST SHARE.—The Federal share of the costs of the feasibility study shall not exceed 50 percent of the total study costs. The Secretary may accept as part of the non-Federal cost share, any contribution of such in-kind services by the City of San Diego and the Sweetwater Authority that the Secretary determines will contribute toward the conduct and completion of the study.

(c) COOPERATION.—The Secretary shall consult and cooperate with appropriate State, regional, and local authorities in implementing this section.

(d) FEASIBILITY REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress a feasibility report for the project the Secretary recommends, and to seek, as the Secretary deems appropriate, specific authority to develop and construct any recommended project. This report shall include—

(1) good faith letters of intent by the City of San Diego and the Sweetwater Authority and its non-Federal partners to indicate that they have committed to share the allocated costs as determined by the Secretary; and

(2) a schedule identifying the annual operation, maintenance, and replacement costs that should be allocated to the City of San Diego and the Sweetwater Authority, as well as the current and expected financial capability to pay operation, maintenance, and replacement costs.

SEC. 3. FEDERAL RECLAMATION PROJECTS.

Nothing in this Act shall supersede or amend the provisions of Federal Reclamation laws or laws associated with any project or any portion of any project constructed under any authority of Federal Reclamation laws.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$3,000,000 for the Federal cost share of the study authorized in section 2.

SEC. 5. SUNSET.

The authority of the Secretary to carry out any provisions of this Act shall terminate 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1803, introduced by Congressman DUNCAN HUNTER, would direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study to design and construct a four-reservoir intertie system. This intertie system will improve the water storage opportunities and water supply reliability for the City of San Diego and the Sweetwater Authority, the third largest water retailer in San Diego County. Similar legislation was passed by the House in the 109th Congress.

We have no objection to this non-controversial bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1803 and yield myself such time as I may consume.

This important legislation was introduced by our colleagues from California, President—not President yet—DUNCAN HUNTER and SUSAN DAVIS, both colleagues here in Congress. It represents the first step in expanding increasingly scarce water supplies for the citizens of the San Diego area.

This bill authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to assess the feasibility of constructing an intertie system between four reservoirs. Several of these reservoirs are significantly below capacity in most years. Once interconnected, water could then be transported to the unused space.

Growing populations and reduced water storage opportunities require us to make efficient use of the supplies that we have, and this bill does just that.

I urge my colleagues to support this noncontroversial bill, which also passed the House in the last Congress. It also follows the adage that an east Texan once told me, "Use what you got." This will allow us to do that. I urge support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1803.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MADERA WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT ACT

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1855) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Madera Irrigation District for purposes of supporting the Madera Water Supply Enhancement Project, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1855

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Madera Water Supply Enhancement Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this Act:

(1) **DISTRICT.**—The term "District" means the Madera Irrigation District, Madera, California.

(2) **PROJECT.**—The term "Project" means the Madera Water Supply Enhancement Project, a groundwater bank on the 13,646-acre Madera Ranch in Madera, California, owned, operated, maintained, and managed by the District that will plan, design, and construct recharge, recovery, and delivery systems able to store up to 250,000 acre-feet of water and recover up to 55,000 acre-feet of water per year, as substantially described in the California Environmental Quality Act, Final Environmental Impact Report for the Madera Irrigation District Water Supply Enhancement Project, September 2005.

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior.

(4) **TOTAL COST.**—The term "total cost" means all reasonable costs, such as the planning, design, permitting, and construction of the Project and the acquisition costs of lands used or acquired by the District for the Project.

SEC. 3. PROJECT FEASIBILITY.

(a) **PROJECT FEASIBLE.**—Pursuant to the Reclamation Act of 1902 (32 Stat. 388) and Acts amendatory thereof and supplemental thereto, the Project is feasible and no further studies or actions regarding feasibility are necessary.

(b) **APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAWS.**—The Secretary shall implement the authority provided in this Act in accordance with all applicable Federal laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 136; 16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

SEC. 4. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.

All final planning and design and the construction of the Project authorized by this Act shall be undertaken in accordance with

a cooperative agreement between the Secretary and the District for the Project. Such cooperative agreement shall set forth in a manner acceptable to the Secretary and the District the responsibilities of the District for participating, which shall include—

- (1) engineering and design;
- (2) construction; and
- (3) the administration of contracts pertaining to any of the foregoing.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION FOR THE MADERA WATER SUPPLY AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF CONSTRUCTION.**—The Secretary, acting pursuant to the Federal reclamation laws (Act of June 17, 1902; 32 Stat. 388), and Acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto, is authorized to enter into a cooperative agreement through the Bureau of Reclamation with the District for the support of the final design and construction of the Project.

(b) **TOTAL COST.**—The total cost of the Project for the purposes of determining the Federal cost share shall not exceed \$90,000,000.

(c) **COST SHARE.**—The Federal share of the capital costs of the Project shall not exceed 25 percent of the total cost. Capital, planning, design, permitting, construction, and land acquisition costs incurred by the District prior to the date of the enactment of this Act shall be considered a portion of the non-Federal cost share.

(d) **CREDIT FOR NON-FEDERAL WORK.**—The District shall receive credit toward the non-Federal share of the cost of the Project for—

(1) in-kind services that the Secretary determines would contribute substantially toward the completion of the project;

(2) reasonable costs incurred by the District as a result of participation in the planning, design, permitting, and construction of the Project; and

(3) the acquisition costs of lands used or acquired by the District for the Project.

(e) **LIMITATION.**—The Secretary shall not provide funds for the operation or maintenance of the Project authorized by this section. The operation, ownership, and maintenance of the Project shall be the sole responsibility of the District.

(f) **PLANS AND ANALYSES CONSISTENT WITH FEDERAL LAW.**—Before obligating funds for design or construction under this section, the Secretary shall work cooperatively with the District to use, to the extent possible, plans, designs, and engineering and environmental analyses that have already been prepared by the District for the Project. The Secretary shall ensure that such information as is used is consistent with applicable Federal laws and regulations.

(g) **TITLE; RESPONSIBILITY; LIABILITY.**—Nothing in this section or the assistance provided under this section shall be construed to transfer title, responsibility, or liability related to the Project to the United States.

(h) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this Act \$22,500,000 or 25 percent of the total cost of the Project, whichever is less.

SEC. 6. SUNSET.

The authority of the Secretary to carry out any provisions of this Act shall terminate 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members